

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MOBUTU'S INTERVIEW WITH LA LIBRE BELGIQUE

1. SUMMARY: LOCAL PRESS HAS PUBLISHED LONG MOBUTU INTERVIEW WITH LA LIBRE BELGIQUE WHICH REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE ON NOVEMBER 26. PRESIDENT MOBUTU PRAISED THE RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN BELGIUM AND ZAIRE AND INDICATED THAT BELGIUM HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ITS FORMER COLONY. IN RESPONDING TO OTHER FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS, MOBUTU STATED THAT ZAIRE SEEKS FURTHER COOPERATION AMONG AFRICAN STATES. MOBUTU AGAIN EXPRESSED ZAIRE'S DESIRE FOR MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BUT NOTED EQUALLY THE RIGHT OF WHITE AFRICANS TO REMAIN. REGARDING DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, MOBUTU EXPLAINED THE RATIONALE FOR RETROCESSION, DEFENDING HIS POLICY OF INDUSTRIALIZATION, DENIED THAT HE WAS AT ODDS WITH THE CHURCH, AND LABELED HIS CONCEPT OF AUTHENTICITY AS MORE PRACTICAL THAN SENGHOR'S CONCEPT OF NEGRITUDE. END SUMMARY.

2. SPECIFIC POINTS OF MOBUTU'S INTERVIEW WITH LA LIBRE BELGIQUE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

ZAIRIAN/BELGIAN RELATIONS

RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAIRE AND BELGIUM STARTED IMPROVING WITH THE VISIT TO KINSHASA OF PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS. WHILE ZAIRE WILL NOT BECOME DEPENDENT ON BELGIUM, COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THIS IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE PRESENCE OF BELGIAN OFFICERS SERVING AS INSTRUCTORS WITH THE ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE. POLITICALLY, HOWEVER, IT IS

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TORS WITH THE ZAIRIAN AIR FORCE. POLITICALLY, HOWEVER, IT IS

REGRETTABLE THAT DISSIDENTS OPPOSED TO THE PRESENT ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT ARE ALLOWED TO REMAIN IN BELGIUM.

AFRICAN POLICY

ZAIRE'S CONSTITUTION ALLOWS ZAIRE UNIQUELY TO GIVE UP CERTAIN ASPECTS OF SOVEREIGNTY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE AFRICAN UNITY. IN THE MEANTIME, ZAIRE IS WORKING THROUGH THE GREAT LAKES COMMUNITY, THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO ACHIEVE MUTUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

ANGOLA

IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK FOR RECONCILIATION IN AND AROUND ANGOLA. THERE ARE AS YET SKIRMISHES IN BORDER AREAS; CUBANS REMAIN IN ANGOLA; AND IT HAS NOT BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT THE KATANGAN GENDARMES ARE DISARMED. PRESENCE OF GENDARMES, HOWEVER, IS OF NO CONCERN SINCE ZAIRE NOW HAS MODERN DEFENSE FORCE.

SOUTH AFRICA

ZAIRE RECOGNIZES THE RIGHT OF WHITE AFRICANS TO REMAIN IN AFRICA, BUT ZAIRE CANNOT ACCEPT A SYSTEM OF SEGREGATION. THE WHITES MUST ACCEPT THE RIGHTS OF THE MAJORITY AND PLAY BY THE RULES, BUT THEIR SECURITY SHOULD BE GUARANTEED.

RETROCESSION

RETROCESSION IS THE OUTGROWTH OF A PRESIDENTIAL PROMISE TO INDEMNIFY LOSSES INCURRED BY FORMER OWNERS DURING THE PROCESS OF ZAIRIANIZATION. AS THE PUBLIC TREASURY COULD NOT SUPPORT A PROGRAM OF MONETARY PAYMENTS TO COVER INDEMNIFICATION, THE GOZ HAS DECIDED TO INVITE FORMER OWNERS TO TAKE BACK THEIR POSSESSIONS WHILE SHARING 40 PERCENT INTEREST WITH A ZAIRIAN PARTNER. THE STATE WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS CONTROL OVER THE LARGE MEANS OF PRODUCTION. IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO DEVELOP MEDIUM AND SMALL BUSINESSES IN ORDER CREATE NEW JOBS.

INDUSTRIALIZATION

IN SPITE OF CRITICISM TO THE CONTRARY, THE DECISION TO BUILD INGA AND OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PUT THE COUNTRY ON ITS FEET AND TO DEVELOP ZAIRIAN RESOURCES. THE GOZ WILL NOT, HOWEVER, NEGLECT AGRICULTURE.

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CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS

IN CHANGING FROM CHRISTIAN TO AFRICAN NAMES, THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT ATTACKING THE CHURCH AS WAS UNFORTUNATELY BELIEVED AT THE TIME. THE GOVERNMENT WAS MERELY SEEKING TO AFFIRM THE AUTHENTIC AFRICAN ORIGINS OF THE PEOPLE.

AUTHENTICITY

AUTHENTICITY IS A PRACTICAL CONCEPT ALLOWING ZAIRIANS TO DEVELOP

A ZAIRIAN NATION AND A ZAIRIAN WAY OF DOING THINGS. IT IS UNLIKE SENGHOR'S BROAD THEORETICAL CONCEPT OF NEGRITUDE, WHICH ALLOWS FOR CONCURRENT PRACTICE OF FRENCH CULTURE.

3. COMMENT: AS IS EVIDENT, MOST OF THE INTERVIEW IS A REPETITION OF PREVIOUS POSITIONS TAKEN BY MOBUTU. HOWEVER, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT MOBUTU HAS FLATLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GOZ DOES NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO PAY FOR INDEMNIFICATION OF ZAIRIANIZED PROPERTIES.
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